

The Bullet

Volume 76, No. 29

Mary Washington College's student newspaper since 1922.

April 3, 2003

SPORTS

Track team holds annual home track meet at the Battleground.

See page 6.

FEATURES

Juniors endure shavings, food products all for a little, itty-bitty class ring.

See page 4.



inside

WHAT'S IN A NAME?:

Alumni angry about proposed name change. See Page 3.

SHHHHHH!

PRISM will host a Day of Silence for tolerance. See Page 8.

MCCOURT'S COURT:

Frank McCourt humors the audience at the Fredericksburg Forum. See Page 12.

weather



TODAY:

Mostly sunny with a high of 78 and a low of 50.

FRIDAY:

Partly cloudy with high of 75 and a low of 44.

SATURDAY:

Showers with a high of 58 and a low of 37.

SUNDAY:

Cloudy with a high of 59 and a low of 42.

verbatim

"I believe [Fred Phelps is] sincere, but sincerely wrong, and a bit crazy."

Mel White

Speak No Evil



Both Pro And Anti-War Activists Say Their Viewpoints Aren't Heard

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH
News Editor

When sophomore Jeffrey Longo put up a poster on his door saying, "I support the president and the armed forces and getting rid of this evil," someone took it down.

So Longo put up another copy on his door and in the lobby of his building saying the same thing. Someone took those two down too.

Longo then put up the sign again, and he gave copies for his friends to hang.

"It's up again," Longo said. "Ever since that second one was taken down, it's stayed up."

Longo's case illustrates what supporters and opponents of the war with Iraq say has happened to their flyers posted around campus. Both sides say that those taking down flyers are violating their right to freedom of expression.

"I've heard it happening to both sides, which is bad," Longo said. "I think it's ridiculous. It's not free speech to take down anyone else's signs."

Longo said he did not know who took his signs, but if he did, he would bring up the case to the Honor Council. Associate Professor of Geography Donald Rallis had something similar happen to flyers he posted up. Rallis hung up several signs advertising an anti-war protest last Saturday in downtown Fredericksburg. Rallis said some of the signs he hung were taken down, and he does not know who is

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Worth Stokes/Bullet
Professor Denis Nissim-Sabat proposed the anti-war resolution.

Faculty Senate Debates Anti-War Resolution

But Then Faculty Decide They Can't Discuss Issue

By JULIE STAVITSKI
Editor-in-Chief

The Faculty Senate voted 15-7 Wednesday afternoon not to discuss a proposed resolution declaring the Faculty Senate's opposition to war in Iraq.

According to Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Roy Gratz, the resolution, proposed by Professor of Psychology Denis Nissim-Sabat, had no relevance to the Faculty Senate and the issues they discuss in their meetings.

Nissim-Sabat's proposal included criticism of the Bush Administration's decision to act unilaterally against Iraq, as well as the potential ramifications for higher education.

"Passing the resolution will not accomplish the goal," Nissim-Sabat said. "The system is changing and dynamic every day."

Nissim-Sabat said the war with Iraq would result in more cutbacks for faculty and less student scholarships and loans.

Gratz pointed to a section of the faculty handbook dictating the Faculty Senate's purposes to the college, stating, "Mutual not

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Southern Association Of Colleges Visits MWC For Reaccreditation

By JAMES TRAMEL
Staff Writer

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reviewed the college last week to assure that it meets the criteria for accreditation.

According to Larry Penwell, associate professor of Business Administration and chair of the Steering Committee, which oversees the Southern Association of Colleges and School's visit, the accreditation process was important because that association basically gives Mary

Washington College the authority to issue degrees to students.

To prepare for the visit, Mary Washington College conducted a study of the school to help prepare for reaccreditation, and chose a strategic topic, a process encouraged by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, said Penwell. This topic, according to Penwell, was to explore the changes called for by the addition, and the anticipated growth of the Stafford Campus, the James Monroe Center for Graduate and Professional Studies. Its solution was to form a plan to create a university that housed James Monroe

Center and Mary Washington College.

"Regarding the move to university status, the SACS visiting team called their report that of a cheerleader," said Executive Assistant to the President Mary R. Corbin. They wholeheartedly endorsed the move and commended the courage, tenacity and innovativeness of our approach, which preserves the history, name and liberal arts tradition of MWC while expanding aggressively at JMC to meet the graduate and professional needs of Virginia's citizens."

Roy B. Weinstock, vice president for Planning, Assessment, and Institutional

Research and chair of SACS's Compliance Committee said, "The visit was very clean and positive. I am very encouraged."

Penwell said, "I know we were well commended for our IT [Instructional Technology] program. The full report should be out in about five weeks."

According to President William Anderson, in an on-line forum discussion, the college must go to university status to protect it from pressures to grow larger. He cited James Madison University as an example of a sprawling institution.

In order to remain small, primarily

▼ see SACS, page 2

Uniting For Peace



Worth Stokes/Bullet
Fredericksburg community members gathered last week to light candles for peace. Many shared their concerns for innocent victims of war in Iraq.

Shoe On The Other Foot

Student Evaluations Of Faculty Affect Pay, Position

By JAMES TRAMEL
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate overwhelmingly approved the use of a new course evaluation form called the Student Feedback on Faculty Teaching at Mary Washington College. The faculty, however, disagree over its benefit.

According to a report submitted and approved by the Faculty Senate about the new course evaluation forms, the student evaluation forms should assess teaching effectiveness and gather feedback from students, but should not evaluate course content.

According to William Kemp, professor and chairperson of the English, linguistics, and Speech department, the idea behind the latter is that student feedback is not necessarily important to the course material being taught, as students are uneducated about the real boundaries of the field.

"Student opinion poll forms are of moderate

value," Kemp said. "I'm responsible for only 50 percent of what comes out of the classroom. The students are equally responsible to engage the material as I am to teach it."

The new Student Feedback on Faculty Teaching Form replaces the SIR II forms used last year at the college. Dean of the Faculty Philip Hall cancelled the SIR II during the early part of the fall 2002 semester as a cost-saving measure.

"It was on its way out anyway," Hall said. "It was killed before the budget crisis."

However, faculty say this was done without the knowledge of, or input from, the faculty.

"The SIR II was precise and fair," said associate professor of Psychology and department chairperson Steve Hampton. "It's a nationally standardized test that has been tested for reliability and validity."

Hall agreed that SIR II was a good evaluation

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Police Beat

By PORTSIA SMITH
Assistant News Editor



March 24—At 10:47 p.m., a fire alarm was activated in Mason Hall causing a building evacuation. The fire department came and determined that burnt popcorn on the second floor set off the alarm.

March 25—Around 7:30 p.m., a male student reported that his bicycle was stolen in front of Woodard Campus Center. A note was left with a number saying that if the owner wanted the bicycle back to call the number and ask for Lolia. The number was called and turned out to be an area business. On March 28, the bicycle was located in front of DuPont Hall.

March 25—Around 11:55 p.m., a student reported that he received a phone threat. According to the student, who is a *Bullet* editor, a male voice said that if an article was printed on Thursday, he would be at the bottom of the river on Friday. The case is under investigation.

March 27—At 2:30 a.m., a female student reported that her car had been vandalized in Randolph lot. Unknown persons had punctured the left front tire and smeared petroleum jelly on the car paint. Campus police say it was not a junior ring week prank

because the student is a senior. The case is under investigation.

March 27—Campus police observed a vehicle parked on William Street with all of the windows covered with pictures from pornographic magazines. The owner of the car was notified and three other students were found to be responsible. They said it was a junior ring week prank. The three students cleaned off the car and were referred to administration.

March 28—At 11:46 p.m., an 18-year-old female student was observed being pulled by several other students towards Virginia Hall. She was found to be intoxicated, but she said she had not been drinking. She was arrested for being drunk in public and transported to Rappahannock Regional Jail.

March 31—An act of vandalism occurred on the third floor of Chandler Hall. It was reported that the words, "Thank you Prof. Lakatos," "Got one" and "Quit Frack, please leave" were written on a wall in yellow spray paint. There are no suspects, and the case is under investigation.

Pro And Anti-War Posters Taken Down

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responsible.

"I suppose advocating for peace seems to be controversial," Rallis said.

Rallis and other faculty members emailed all students and employees urging respect for other's viewpoints, even those that are not popular.

"Students emailed me back saying that the time for dissent is over, essentially saying that in war, we should not dissent," Rallis said. "My response is that when dissent is over, democracy fails."

Even with the signs being taken down, Rallis said about 150 protesters attended Saturday's rally, and many of them were Mary Washington College students.

Acting Police Director Lt. James Snipes said the one has filed any police reports about this issue.

"A couple people have come in and complained," Snipes said. "But no one has filed any reports."

The college's policy on academic freedom says that all members of the college community have a right to express their views without censorship. It also says that only state and federal

laws and respect for other persons or property can constrain this right.

If someone feels his or her right to free expression has been infringed, he or she can ask the college president to form an ad-hoc committee on academic freedom to investigate the issue.

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs John Morello said anyone at the college could ask for the committee to be formed.

"I don't recall any instance since [the 14 years] I've been here when the committee has been convened," Morello said. "That doesn't mean it hasn't happened."

Morello said that he did hear of one instance prior to 1989 involving an art exhibit where the committee was formed.

However, Rallis said he thought it was more important to discuss the issue than seek punishment.

"I think that anybody who is trying to suppress discussion and dissent doesn't belong in an academic environment," Rallis said. "It's crucially important to listen to other views at this time."

additional 38,000 students anticipated throughout the state over the next decade and, simultaneously, to keep the main campus of Mary Washington College relatively unchanged.

According to the Mary Washington College's SACS committee, "roughly 80 people, including faculty, administrators, students, alumni and members of the regional community, are involved in a variety of committees studying the changes called for by the addition of the second campus. Surveys and focus groups have been used to involve faculty, students, prospective students, alumni, as well as local community and business leaders in the self-study."

Peers Come To Evaluate MWC

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residential, and focused on the liberal arts and sciences. Mary Washington College is taking a different approach from JMU and building a separate campus. There are now two campuses, soon to be two colleges — Mary Washington College and James Monroe College. In addition, the college oversees two historic properties for the Commonwealth: Belmont and the James Monroe Museum.

College officials say that as the region continues to grow, it is likely that additional educational programs, facilities, centers, and schools will be needed. They say the James Monroe Center will provide the required space, and a university structure will allow the flexibility to meet the needs of an

Faculty Decided Not To Decide

War Resolution Considered Irrelevant To College

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germane to the College must be deemed out of order."

Grazt then called on Faculty Senate chair Ernest Ackermann to throw Nissim-Sabat's resolution out. After Ackermann said he felt the resolution was debatable, Grazt proposed a vote to deem Nissim-Sabat's proposal out of order.

"It does not meet with the guidelines," Grazt said.

Associate Professor of Anthropology professor Eric Gable said that he felt that the resolution was "precisely" what the faculty of colleges and universities do all the time during war.

"[The resolution] would not speak for the students and administration but for the faculty," Gable said. "It does not mean others' voices would be stifled."

Professor of Physics Bulent Atalay countered Gable's opinion.

"This is going to reflect on the entire faculty,"

Atalay said.

Professor of Music David Long said he opposed the resolution because it confused the roles of the faculty senate members.

"We are trying to use our rights as U.S. citizens as opposed to using our rights as Mary Washington faculty," Long said.

Some senate members expressed concern about the resolution being seen as representative of the faculty as a whole, such as Associate Professor of English Claudia Emerson.

"I still think [the resolution] is misleading," she said. "[Members of the English department] feel the vote is representing them."

Associate Professor of Political Science Stephen Farnsworth said that he thought it wasn't a good idea to end discussion on the resolution.

"It's not wise to shut down before the debate begins," he said.

Nation In Brief

By Lindsay Beaton

Anti-war Nuns Busted For Sabotage

DENVER—Dominican sisters Carolyn Gilbert, Jackie Hudson and Ardeh Platte broke into the Minuteman III silo near Greeley, Colo., to "unmask the false religion and worship of national security." The three nuns were put on trial Monday for alleged sabotage and malicious destruction of property, reported Reuters. The three made the sign of the cross with their own blood on the lid of the silo and cut cables. They had their share of supporters, who yelled out "We love you!" in the courtroom and cheered the sisters, who smiled and waved back in their orange jumpsuits. If the nuns are convicted they could spend up to 30 years in jail and face fines up to \$250,000. They have been previously involved in other anti-military demonstrations.

Marijuana Makes The Wheels Go Round

DENTON, Texas—Over 80 pounds of marijuana valued at more than \$64,000 was found in the tires of a truck stopped by Denton County deputies. A drug sniffing dog discovered the hiding place, which revealed metal boxes full of the substance, reported the Associated Press. Dora Valdez, 27, and Michael Navarette, 21, the driver and passenger of the vehicle, allowed a search after they gave two different stories about why they were speeding. "I was going to move the spare tire out of the way but I couldn't even move it," said Deputy Armin Melo. "I knew there was something in that tire." Melo said the tires were filled with more marijuana than air. "[Valdez and Navarette] said it rode pretty rough," he said. The two were charged with possession of marijuana over 50 pounds, a felony.

Bark If You Love The Law

ATHENS, Ohio—Jeremy Gilchrist thought he was being funny when he barked back at a police dog, but the dog's partner Officer Krishea Osborne didn't think it was very amusing. The court decided, however, that Gilchrist was simply using his free speech rights when he barked, reported the Associated Press. "The mere fact that the police dog had commenced the barking did not entitle it to a solo performance," said Gilchrist's attorney. While state law makes it illegal to taunt, torment or hit a police dog, the judge ruled that since Gilchrist was 30 feet away the law doesn't apply.

Surf's Up (For 18 Miles!)

ABERDEEN, Wash.—Jens Eventyr just wanted to go surfing at Westhaven State Park. Instead, he spent the night at sea being tossed around by 12-foot waves and landing on shore the next morning 18 miles away from where he started, reported the Associated Press. "I can't even explain how horrible it was," said Eventyr. "Think about the worst nightmare of your life, but it goes on all night long. And the whole time you know you're clinging to the edge of death." Eventyr tried to paddle back to shore after the first big wave knocked him down but the water kept pushing him farther out. He spotted a couple ships and tried to yell for help but no one heard him. He ended up spending the night seasick in stormy 50-degree waters. When the sun rose he saw land and headed for it. "All I could see was a cliff in front of me and I thought that I was going to get slammed up against it," he said. He landed on the beach and got a ride into the nearby town from a young couple, where the Coast Guard and his wife were contacted. "That man really had a will to live," said Petty Officer Clint Strayhorn. "It's amazing."

Lying May Be Made Illegal

DES MOINES, Iowa—Jo Hamlet, mayor pro tempore of Mount Sterling, Iowa, says that he's tired of hearing lies and is pushing for a ban on telling falsehoods. He will poll the city before he puts the ordinance before the city council, reported Reuters. "People [are supposedly] shooting 16-pound geese and catching 9-pound bass and 28-pound gobbler turkeys and over 200-point bucks," said Hamlet. "I thought maybe we ought to tame this down a little bit." Possible penalties for lying may include mouth-washing or tongue-lashing. "We're going to have an awful time finding judges," Hamlet said.

Move Over SIR II: A New Evaluation Is In Town

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system, but he also said it was expensive.

College officials said it cost \$16,500 to use the SIR II each year, but there are still questions about the new evaluation forms.

"It isn't clear how much it will cost to use the newer form," said Roy B. Weinstock, vice president for Planning, Assessment and Institutional Research. "There could be sizeable up-front and start-up costs, but in the long run, the newer form will be cheaper."

Faculty said the evaluation forms are all part of the peer review process done annually by the faculty. However, faculty do not feel this system works.

"A faculty member receives merit pay awards based on the evaluation process, which is quite involved," English professor Kemp said. "Polls, such as the course evaluation forms, are not statistically valid for these purposes. Teaching is just too complex a subject to be evaluated as such."

Classics, Philosophy and Religion Chairperson Craig Vasey also does not like the fact that course evaluations can contribute to faculty evaluations.

"It's insulting, the competition process people are forced into to yield a higher level of merit pay," Vasey said. "The peer review process is a divisive feature, one of the more demoralizing features of our teaching responsibility. For example, I have three departments that are ranked against each other, and these departments are all then pitted against the rest of the campus."

As Dean of Faculty, Hall has input into the level of merit pay received by the faculty.

"We look for things that stand out in the evaluation forms," Hall said.

Business Professor and department chairperson Robert L. Frackleton said a lot of factors are used to determine faculty merit pay.

"The key is not to reduce everyone to a number," Frackleton said. "Chairs look at info with an eye toward the overall view."

The notion is that the faculty has not received raises or bonuses in almost three years, due to budget cuts and a weak economy.

This will be the second time Mary Washington College has used an in-house form. According to Hall, the evaluations are always controversial.

"No one likes to be evaluated," Hall said. "The evaluations are naturally a point of contention, especially when dealing with faculty salaries."

The original in-house form, the SCRQ, was developed by Bruce MacEwen, professor of Psychology, in the early 80s. It was used up until the spring of 1997 when SIR II took over.

"It makes sense to reevaluate yourself and your evaluation process every few years," said Mary B. Rigby, associate professor of English. "The form should adapt to the times. Flexibility is the key."

An in-house form was created last year in alternative to the SIR II, but was defeated in the Faculty Senate. A motion for passage of that form was called for in the general faculty assembly. While a show of hands indicated victory, a written tally indicated a tie. The motion needed a majority to be overruled.

"The old form, the form that was turned down last year, and the SIR II all used psychometrics in their development, a statistical method to test reliability and validity," said MacEwen. "The new form does not. The problem becomes then, that you don't know what the new survey is measuring."

Jodie Hayob, associate professor of Environmental Science and Geology, does not think the new form can be compared to the SIR II because the questions are different.

"Undoubtedly, some faculty and administrators will try to make comparisons, but they will probably not have much meaning," Hayob said.

The new form is due in part to the lack of any evaluation form, save yellow sheets where students can openly write comments about the course. However, students wondered how anonymous their comments would be.

"They would recognize my handwriting in a second," sophomore Robert Hartzog said.

According to David Kolar, assistant professor of Psychology, a problem with the evaluation system is that faculty received the forms students commented on.

"Granted this was well into the next semester, but it raises the question of anonymity," Kolar said.

SIR II has also been used at Virginia Commonwealth University and University of California at Riverside where the response had been typed out separately to preserve student anonymity.

"The change is good," Hall said. "Each year we get it a little bit better."

The next general faculty meeting, where the forms could be called into question, will be on April 24.

Viewpoints

your opinions

Editorial

Censorship Conundrum

One of the most important rights that citizens and residents of the United States of America have is the First Amendment: freedom of religion, press, assembly, and possibly the most important of all, the freedom of speech. The ability to voice one's opinion without feeling afraid of the possibility of consequences echoes the idea of freedom.

According to the college's policy on academic freedom, the right to free speech cannot be taken from us; however, censorship may be enforced if federal law intervenes or if speech is at the expense of someone or a group of people, or personal property.

In lectures across campus some professors have noted that the first thing to be compromised during wartime is our freedom of speech. This assertion has been illustrated since the U.S. invaded Iraq in late March by the removal of flyers placed around campus and the censorship of messages painted on the spirit rock by the supporters and those opposed of the current war with Iraq.

Everyone has an opinion on the war. Some support the president's decision, and others oppose it. Some support the troops but not the president's decision, while other citizens do not feel educated enough to have an opinion whatsoever on the war.

Nonetheless, the fact of the matter is that no one person has the right to censor another person's opinions. One might not agree with another's opinion, but to silence someone else is against the freedoms given to us by the fathers of this country.

After all, opinions are not fact, they are personal statements influenced by emotions or circumstances. Instead of focusing so much on the opinions of others, we here at *The Bulletin* encourage members of the Mary Washington College community to educate themselves on the issues surrounding the war. The right to free speech is something that our country has fought for and earned, regardless of whether it is in wartime or peacetime.

After all, you wouldn't want your freedom of speech taken away, so why try to take away someone else's?

the Bulletin
www.thebulletonline.com

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Save The Name!

Alumni Overwhelmingly In Favor Of Keeping MWC, Threaten To Withhold Donations

'Appalled'

Dear Editor:

I am a member of the class of 1996 and am appalled at the move to change the name of our alma mater. I am very proud to be a graduate of Mary Washington College and do not want to see that name disappear. My mother is a graduate of Westhampton College. Where is that, you ask? Yes, the University of Richmond consumed it up when they moved to university status and these days no one even knows the name.

I am thrilled that the college is considering university status, but do not feel that a name change is necessary. The College of William and Mary is a perfect example of a university that maintained its name and reputation. Mary Washington College is also the only public institution of higher learning left in the country that is named for a woman. Let's keep it that way.

Susanah F. Hogge graduated in 1996.

'Avoid A Quick Fix'

Dear Editor:

I am very concerned about the general fiscal climate within the Virginia University System, and I hope that my contributions will help

Mary Washington College continue to develop into one of the finest public liberal arts institutions in the country in some small way.

With that said, I am distressed by the news that the Mary Washington College administration is considering an umbrella or blanket name change for the college. In my opinion, no single decision could go further in dismantling the strong reputation that the faculty and community have crafted in Fredericksburg.

I am pleased to see that Mary Washington College is expanding offerings in graduate studies, but strong programs and academic and intellectual integrity, not a name change will be what defines the institution in the future. Please encourage the administration to avoid a "quick fix" solution as we transition from college to university status.

No one questions the quality of graduate programs at other private and public institutions around the country that have proudly retained their names, such as Dartmouth College, Boston College, St. Joseph's College, The College of William and Mary, Providence College and Marietta College. I don't believe that a whimsical change is necessary in our case, either.

While it will be my pleasure to continue sending gifts to Mary Washington College as I advance in my career, I will

absolutely refuse to support an institution by any other name. Please leave the individuality and dignity of my alma mater intact.

Joshua Paterni graduated in 2001.

Here We Go Again

Dear Editor:

We must admit, we are not the most active alumni. Though, in our defence, we were hardly active students. In truth, our involvement in campus affairs boils down to a singular run for class council. A campaign that is notable only for its spectacular failure.

Since graduating most of us have kept only nominal contact with the school, save for the token donation, our support has been minimal. However, this general apathy has much more to do with our mistrust and dislike of the school administration than it does with our feelings towards Mary Washington College.

In fact, Mary Washington College and Fredericksburg hold a special place in our hearts. In the years since our graduation we have come to appreciate our educations and the school all the more.

The more you meet people from better branded colleges the more you realize that many of the schools, with name recognition, are a lot like Coors

Light. A brand that is well known and respected but, when you get right down to it, the product is pretty watered down. But we digress.

Our aforementioned antipathy towards the school's administration was reinforced when we heard that they were again trying to change the name. This is not a new idea; about every half a decade some knucklehead proposes a name change.

If memory serves, the name they proposed while we were still living off exit 130B was "University of the Golden Crescent" or something equally as insane. Now it appears they are leaning towards "Monroe and Washington," which sounds as unique as our choice in mascot.

Which, as an aside, we always felt should be changed to the "Fighting Squirrels," but that is a whole different kettle of fish.

The fact is that there is no need to change the name. To his credit President Anderson has done a fantastic job at improving the recognition and standard of Mary Washington College. It would seem self-defeating to change the name now.

One of the standard justifications for the name change is that it will help

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Juniors Rejoice! It's Over!



Bullet Letter and Editorial Policy

The Bulletin is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them. If there are numerous letters on one subject, a sampling of the best letters will be selected.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted the Monday before publication. All letters and columns are subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words. The Bulletin reserves the right to withhold libelous material.

The Bulletin does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disability, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sex, age or sexual orientation.

The Bulletin will not publish anonymous letters or columns. All letters must be signed, and a phone number and address must be included to facilitate verification of authorship of the letter. Letters and columns can be mailed to The Bulletin at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our email address at bullet@mw.edu.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Bulletin staff. The staff editorial represents the opinions of The Bulletin editorial board and not necessarily those of the college, student body or entire Bullet staff.

Letters to the Editor

Short Attention Something

Dear Editor:

I am not the most informed person on this campus. Not even close. Anyone can attest to the fact that I rarely turn on the television, let alone watch the news every night. I am just not usually interested in worldly affairs.

Lately, though, I've noticed a change in myself. I've been watching the news, checking the Internet, and most surprising of all, becoming engaged in conversations about the war. I have noticed this change in other people as well. Only one thing worries me with this sudden new awareness of our world, that it is not going to last.

This is the age of constantly outdoing the last thing done, the age of the news competing with itself each night, the age of the 30 second

American attention span. Sure this war is a hot topic today, but if it does not come to a speedy conclusion as predicted, if it stretches out into a matter of years, will it still be a hot topic? Very unlikely.

And if we don't ever really "win" the war, will it be a repeat of Vietnam? Maybe. I'm glad that everyone suddenly has an opinion and feels the need to express it, but in a few weeks time how many people will have "moved on?" Over spring break I read an article titled "Is it anti-American to be anti-war?" Just take a minute to think about that. This country was born out of dissent, but now it was anti-American to be a dissenter?

I've come to realize that the only thing that is anti-American is to not have an opinion, either one way or another. Sadly, it took a war for me to see the things that need to be fixed with the American outlook on the world. Let's expand our attention span.

Emily Kinnitt is a sophomore.

Features

extras about people and places

Fast Fact:

Most plant pollen is highly inflammable. It will ignite and explode when placed on a hot surface. In the early days of theater, artificial lightning was produced by throwing pollen grains onto a hot shovel.

thumbs



to trying to find an apartment in Fredericksburg.



to the Eagle's Nest for getting Fair Trade Coffee.



to trying to find a job.



to the Multicultural Fair this Saturday.



to the random streak of snow and winter weather these past few days.



to the Pat McGee Band performing yesterday.

in the stars

Aries - You are being watched. Act casual (i.e. pretend you are wearing blue jeans and a tee-shirt).

Taurus - You will find renewed interest in home repair. Oddly, this will occur after a visit by your nephew.

Gemini - You'll feel a little tired and run down today. This could explain those tire tracks on your shirt.

Cancer - It's okay to whistle while you work. Your co-workers won't like the yodelling, however.

Leo - You will quit your job, run away, and work on a shrimp trawler under an assumed name.

Virgo - Excellent day to devour fruit while making snarling sounds and glaring at persons nearby.

Libra - Today everyone will make you severely annoyed. The important thing is to remember that in the long run, they're all dead.

Scorpio - Good day to begin construction of a labyrinth.

Sagittarius - You'll become angry that you missed out on the fun during the 60s and 70s, and will change your name to "Sunflower" in protest.

Capricorn - You will discover that you can whistle and hum at the same time. This will entertain you for hours.

Aquarius - During a walk in the woods, you will spot Mick Jagger gathering moss. You will find this disturbing.

Pisces - Remember: you can't tell your boss to get lost. You can, however, give him the wrong directions.

Attacks on the Juniors!!!



Peter Kelley/Bullet

A Junior Ring Week prank that resulted in junior Katie Anderson's room being transported outdoors.

By LAUREN DeANGELIS

Staff Writer

On Thursday, at the tail end of Junior Ring Week 2003, junior Katie Anderson arrived from class surprised to find her roommate, friends and residents sitting on her couch and bed. Anderson wasn't surprised that her buddies were there; she was surprised that her entire room, down to the last detail, had been moved outside to the lawn in front of Mason Hall.

"I thought it was hilarious," Anderson said. "It was the best Junior Ring Week prank I'd seen. They moved everything...my couch, bed, rug, trash, light, clothes, pictures, pillows, and even my bear. I gave my roomie props for thinking it up."

From the looks of the Mary Washington College campus this past week, many props are in order for the industrious students willing to go to any length to embarrass and inconvenience their junior friends. With rumors of loft beds re-built around trees and soda machines moved in front of doors, this year's Junior Ring Week pranks proved to be no less entertaining than previous years.

Above all, the week proved that when it comes to disgrace and mayhem,

Mary Washington has no shortage in school spirit. Here's the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Junior Ring Week 2003.

The Good

For a tradition that began as a way to honor the junior class by doing nice things for them, Junior Ring Week has taken quite a turn in the opposite direction. Despite the constant harassment, juniors were able to relax at the events planned for them by Class Council throughout the week.

Monday's scavenger hunt pitted over 30 teams of two to four students against one another in a race to decipher and discover eight clues. Students had only two hours to pick up items from each of the on- and off-campus clue sites. The first four teams to finish with all the required items received cash prizes of \$100 to \$400.

"My team didn't finish, but we got six of the eight clues," junior Shalini Henry said. "We had a great time and got a ton of exercise running all over Fredericksburg for two hours."

Tuesday's event, the drive-in movie in Ball Circle, also attracted a crowd of at least 100 students. Other events included the Ring Ceremony rehearsal on Wednesday, and comedian Dan Levy

on Thursday. At each event, juniors picked up their free t-shirts and cups.

At the Ring Ceremony on Friday and the Ring Dance on Saturday, juniors breathed sighs of relief as the week came to an end. But the memories of juniors covered in eggs on campus walk and embarrassing photos at the Eagle's Nest are here to stay in the minds of all those who took a laugh at their favorite junior's expense.

The Bad

With pranks running rampant on campus, it wasn't uncommon to see juniors rushing from class to class, giving furtive glances in the direction of anything that moved. Sheer anxiety has become an integral part of the Junior Ring Week experience.

"There's that whole fear of constantly having to look over your shoulder while you're outside," junior David Rickey said.

Junior Priya Gyani had a similar story.

"I was so freaking paranoid that every time I lost or misplaced something I blamed other people. I wore a sports bra and sneakers for most of the week, just in case something happened," Gyani said.

Despite their vigilance, juniors' friends still managed to ambush them. Sitting in class one day, Rickey was surprised to hear a strange remark from his historic preservation professor.

"Professor Pearce said to me, 'Gee, I didn't know you knew such beautiful women,' Rickey said. 'That was before I saw the flyer of me surrounded by bikini-clad women with a caption that read 'Dave Rickey: Still not getting any.' That one is true, so it doesn't bother me.'"

Gyani was ambushed, literally, when her friends kidnapped her, tied her up with duct tape, and dropped her off at the train station, penniless and cell phone-less, with two other juniors.

"We were supposed to race back to campus and the first person to touch the fountain got immunity for the rest of the week," Gyani said. "Unfortunately for them, they picked the three girls with the worst attitudes. So we walked our asses back in the dark and rain and touched the fountain together. I was mad because it was so time consuming—it took four hours—but it was all in good fun."

Sophomore Chris Hines used a more subtle tactic to tease the juniors that live in the apartment above him. After the juniors came down to apologize for a mess

see RINGS, page 5

Do You Like Balls and Numbers? Accounting Society Plays With More Than Just Numbers

By AMANDA McGUIRE

Staff Writer

If you think that accounting is all about crunching numbers, think again.

When business and accounting students and those just interested in the subject get together every Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. in Goolrick's auxiliary gym, they discuss everything but accounting. Instead, members of Mary

Washington College's Accounting Society gather together to play volleyball and simply enjoy each other's company.

"The idea is basically to get out and do something we can all do," said Accounting Society secretary and senior Brenna McGaha. "It's just fun and is nothing related to accounting."

McGaha, along with Sara Rainbolt, the president of the organization, and Associate Professor of business administration Dan Hubbard, enjoy playing volleyball in the gym every Friday because it gives them a chance to let loose after a week of school.

According to McGaha and Hubbard, the participants play according to their own rules.

"If we're tired one day, we just let the ball bounce," Hubbard said. "We just have a heck of a lot of fun."

On many occasions, about 10 other people show up and play with them.

"If people are in the gym, we invite them to join and they usually do," said McGaha, a business administration major with a concentration in accounting. "And once we had 15, which was great!"

Rainbolt, a senior Business Administration major who is concentrating in Accounting, also commented on the game.

"We're definitely not exclusive."

Along with Rainbolt, Hubbard and McGaha agreed that the Accounting Society is not just for business students, but for anyone who plans on



Peter Kelley/Bullet

Last Friday's game.

entering the business world or dealing with accounting in some way.

"Accounting touches upon almost all aspects business, so for anyone who wants to be involved, this is a great way," Rainbolt said. "Joining the Accounting Society is a good way to not have to take a class about accounting, but to just get the feel for it."

She added that the society encourages a laid back environment where students can talk to other students about accounting and can lead one another in the right direction, whether for jobs, classes, or internships.

These reasons are just some of the motives that founding members of the Accounting Society had in mind when they decided to start this campus organization two years ago. At that time, the original club for students interested in accounting had become

see BUSINESS, page 5



Peter Kelley/Bullet

Accounting society members playing volleyball.



A flowering tree on Mary Washington College's campus.

Peter Kelley/Bullet

Organic Gardens: 101 Growing Food the Natural Way

By STEPHANIE TWINING
Staff Writer

It's hard for anybody to deny that they are concerned about the depletion of natural resources on the earth. For Suzanne Pryor of King George County, this concern spurred a lifelong endeavor of researching and spreading knowledge of "Bio-Intensive Gardening."

At a workshop held at Belmont Plantation last Saturday, March 29, Pryor discussed the basics of organic gardening for an audience of 17 local gardening enthusiasts. Out of all the information and experiences that Pryor shared with her small audience, she emphasized two issues.

"One is that the need [for efficient and healthy food sources] is pretty great, and charity begins at home," Pryor said.

Throughout her presentation, Pryor stressed the international threat against the world's food source and the remarkable difference bio-intensive gardening can make with regards to the annual yield that can be produced through this alternative gardening technique.

Second, was the health value of organic gardening; an aspect that struck a cord with many of the workshop participants.

Penny O'Neil of Spotsylvania County attended the workshop on Saturday out of concern for her daughter who has overwhelming health problems, such as asthma and allergies, due to the pesticides and chemicals used in agriculture today. She and her husband recently purchased a home on two acres of land in Spotsylvania that has never been chemically treated. They plan to have an organic farm with rabbits, chickens and a garden to feed their family.

O'Neil first learned of bio-intensive gardening through a book that explained the processes and impressive outcomes the system can produce.

"I got the book on a whim for 50 cents," O'Neil said. "And it changed my life."

Pryor names master gardener and ecologist, John Jeavons, as her inspiration for learning about and teaching the organic way of growing food. Jeavons is the director of Ecology Action, a non-profit environmental research and educational organization, and has twice been nominated for the World Food Prize.

Jeavons travels around the world to places such as Cuba and Afghanistan teaching the bio-intensive method to help increase the food surplus for impoverished countries.

"I had been gardening all my life and I always wanted to grow my own food," Pryor said. "When I learned about Jeavons' system, I said, 'wow.' It's that amazing."

Karen Sorrell, a King George resident and participant in Pryor's workshop, was also impressed by Jeavons' methods. She attended the

workshop to learn how she could change her gardening style for the better.

"There's so much chemicals in this world," Sorrell said. "I just knew I wanted to migrate towards natural gardening."

After attending Ecology Action workshops across the country, Pryor claims she is still learning.

"I think it takes 10 years of studying [the bio-intensive technique] to be accomplished," she said. "By no means am I ready to go out and teach it to third world countries, but coming here was a good place to start. I can only share my experiences with people who are like me, and hope that they become more aware of connecting to what they eat."

She was anxious to share what she knew, so she set up her workshop through her good friend and head gardener at Belmont since 1999, Beate Jensen. Jensen is a firm believer in organic

gardening and was eager to provide a forum for Pryor to share her knowledge. After graduation from Mary Washington with a degree in Historic Preservation, Jensen began working in the Belmont gardens. The job proves to be a perfect combination of her love of gardening and desire to preserve and restore the original Gari Melcher gardens.

Now she wants to incorporate her concern for the environment into her gardening system.

"I have been gardening for a long time, and it's through observing and experience that I learned that organic is the way to go," Jensen said.

According to Jensen, this year will be the first time several of the gardens at the plantation will be purely organic.

"To say it is not purely organic might sound like a joke, because in order to make any difference, you have to go one way or another," Jensen said. "But more and more we have stopped using chemicals."

According to Ecology Action's website, agriculture as we know it cannot feed the world's population much longer, because as few as 45 years of farmable soil is left on the planet.

Pryor believes that there is something all of us can do about it, and that is to learn how to grow our own efficient and healthy food sources. Using the bio-intensive gardening techniques, it is possible to grow a complete diet on less than 1,000 square feet. That's less than many people's own backyard.

Pryor, Jensen and all the avid gardeners who attended the workshop at Belmont believe they can make a difference, big or small, by changing to more simple, non-genetic or chemically treated gardening method.

"I think deep down, most of us want to make a better world," Pryor said.

"I got the book on a whim for 50 cents and it changed my life."

Penny O'Neil

A Week of Flour and Fear

▲ RINGS, page 4

of eggs that was dripping down onto Hines' deck, he jumped into action.

"I immediately went to my room and created a very official looking, but fake, eviction notice and stuck it on their door. I cited numerous noise complaints and a final act of vandalism, the egging," Hines said. "Later I found out that the juniors compared it to their three other real eviction notices, and were no longer worried. But they said it was a valiant effort."

The Ugly

Forget subtlety and finesse, some pranks were just downright ugly. Katie Anderson said that her friends from the basketball team tackled her outside of her dorm and poured toothpaste, syrup and flour all over her.

"I had just gotten out of the shower so that sucked," Anderson said.

Junior Mandy Cox received similar treatment when her boyfriend, Steve Wenzel, unloaded on her with a Super Soaker filled with beer. She said that later he also broke into her room.

"He put icy hot on all of the door handles and poured confetti all over the room and bathroom (the confetti was) on my bed, in my desk, in the toilet and shower. He sprayed silly string all over the place too," Cox said. "There is still confetti and what-not all over the room even though I have vacuumed it many times."

Likewise, junior Lauren Wilson described how her

suitemate pranked her bathroom.

"She bungee-corded the door to the bathroom stall and hung toilet paper in the doorway and taped up various toiletries, so that we had to crawl into our bathroom," Wilson said.

Wilson also said that she was the victim of frequent water attacks throughout the week.

"I was basically wet the whole week. In other words, I should have been wearing my poncho every day," Wilson said. "I didn't mind at all, but it was annoying having to change clothes like three times a day."

Like Wilson, most juniors took the pranks in good spirits. Some even noted that they enjoyed the attention.

"I think I would have been more upset if nothing happened to me," Gyani said regarding her kidnapping experience.

Of course, Junior Ring Week would not be complete without the most enduring element of all. The seeds of revenge that promise to make next year's Junior Ring Week just as memorable.

"Half the people that got us were sophomores," Gyani said. "They're all living in Framar next year...together. Revenge will be swift and just."

In the true Junior Ring Week spirit, Anderson offered a really difficult for even the least-spirited junior to deny.

"Of course I'm planning to get them back. I knew it was coming for me because I got people in previous years," Anderson said. "It's all in the fun of it."



A student ends up on the Mason Hall lawn with dorm furniture.

Peter Kelley/Bullet



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Add, Subtract, Spike!!!

▲ BUSINESS, page 4

defunct. But students like McGaha and alumna Melissa Reedy, along with the help of advisors like Hubbard, decided to reinvent the club.

They chose to call it a "society" so that people would recognize it as a little more professional than a "club." The first meeting was held in the fall of 2001 and that was just the beginning. Although members pay fees of only \$5 per year, they reap the benefits of experiences worth several times that amount. The group has visited downtown accounting firms and has also invited several accountants to come and speak about the profession and what to do after college.

Members of the society have also been involved with Virginia Income Tax Assistance (VITA), which is an organization that helps low-income families in the surrounding community prepare their income taxes. According to McGaha, accounting students from Mary Washington College have participated in this program two times this semester and the Accounting Society hopes that this will continue into the future.

"As for the rest of the semester, we're looking into having an investment seminar, entrepreneurs coming to speak, and movie night and some socials," Rainbolt said.

In fact, one of the society's recent socials was quite a success, when nearly 20 students got together to go bowling on the evening of March 20.

"A lot of new people showed up and it was a really good ice-breaker," Rainbolt said.

Society members said events like the bowling night and weekly volleyball not only bring the students closer to one another, but they allow the students to connect with the club advisor, Hubbard, who teaches several accounting classes in the business department at the College.

"He's our sponsor and he's always available," McGaha said. "He really supports the society."

Accounting Society members said Hubbard's support clearly goes beyond the classroom and office hours. He attends nearly all of the society's events in an effort to forge a strong bond with the students.

"If we're tired one day, we just let the ball bounce. We just have a heck of a lot of fun."

Dan Hubbard

Sports

the latest athletic news and information

Fast Fact:

The Snickers bar is the top selling candy in vending machines.

schedule

Baseball

April 3: at North Carolina Wesleyan

Softball

April 5: at Salisbury U.

Men's Lacrosse

April 5: vs. Neumann College

Women's Lacrosse

April 3: at Roanoke College

Tennis

April 4-5: at College of New Jersey

Track & Field

April 4-5: at North Carolina Central U.

scores

Baseball

April 1: Apprentice College W 5-4

Softball

April 2: Gallaudet University W 8-0

Men's Lacrosse

April 2: St. Mary's College W 8-4

Women's Lacrosse

March 31: Randolph-Macon W 15-8

Men's Tennis

March 30: Rhodes College W 5-2

Women's Tennis

March 27: Loyola College L 6-3

athlete of the week

Jon Hurd Baseball

First baseman knocked in the game-winning run to complete the team's come-from-behind victory against Apprentice College.

Women's Lax Lands On Top

Block Scores Four, Team Defeats Randolph-Macon, 15-8

By KATE STACY
Staff Writer

The frigid wind sweeping across the Battlegrounds at the women's lacrosse game this past Monday made the spectators envious of the warmed-up players on the field. The Mary Washington College women's lacrosse team, ranked 11th in the nation this week, braved the cold weather to defeat Randolph-Macon College, ranked 18th, by a solid score of 15-8.

The team's win against Randolph-Macon was an important one to inspire confidence and optimism coming into the Capital Athletic Conference championships.

St. Mary's College of Maryland will most likely pose the biggest threat to the Eagles in the conference championships. Randolph-Macon only lost to St. Mary's by a score of 10-7, making MWC's recent victory a huge step toward defeating one of their most competitive rivals.

"The game against Randolph-Macon was important for us in the region because they are a top 20 team. It showed that we are a top team and that we'll have a successful season," junior Jessica Goon said.

The Eagles dominated the first half of the game, leading at half time with a score of 8-1. Junior Melissa Block scored four goals, while Britt Gottlieb scored three times for the Eagles.

Randolph-Macon put up competition in the second-half, gaining seven points for their team. The Eagles, however, held strong and maintained a commanding lead. They capitalized on their strengths with freshman Kim Mathison making aggressive moves and freshman Kristina Kral scoring a vital goal to bring the score up to 13-6. Goon scored two back-to-back goals in the game.

Head Coach Dana Hall said she is impressed by the result of her players' hard work this season.

"Melissa Block and Jess Goon have stepped up this season to help the two seniors Kami McNinch and Beth Schminke lead this team to our destiny," Hall said.

That destiny, the team is hoping, is to win the conference and to go on to play in the national championship. The NCAA Tournament begins on May 7.

The remaining four weeks of the season will determine how far the team will go in the post-season and at this point their chances look good. "We've made it to the final four for the past two years, and our goal this year is to win the conference and make it to the national championship," Goon said.

Monday's seven-goal win for MWC represents the dedication of a team that, despite having to begin its training in inclement weather, is once again ranked at the top of the nation.

Block commented on the challenge of the snow in the team's ability to remain competitive this season.

"The beginning of this season was tough. The weather constraints we had were very frustrating especially since early competitors of ours had other facilities such as turf and field houses at their disposal," she said.

"The weather has played havoc on our training, limiting us on the field," Hall said. "Yet the team has kept their spirits high and been creative with their training."

Block's remarks seem to sum up the moral of this notoriously competitive women's team.

"I really believe that we are finally at a point to show exactly what this team is made of. I am so excited to see what we accomplish," she said.

The women's lacrosse team will play a home game this Sunday, April 6 at 1 p.m. against Greensboro College.



Anne Litz/Bullet

Freshman Caitlin O'Leary scoops a ground ball in a recent game.

Eagles Represent The Home Track

MWC Performs Well In Battleground Relay Meet



Anne Litz/Bullet

Runners at recent Battleground Relay.

By KATE STACY
Staff Writer

Mary Washington College track and field head coach Stan Soper is unflinchingly optimistic about this year's team.

"Our team goal is always to win the conference championships, and this year we hope to keep our winning streak going," he said.

The Eagles hosted the Battleground Relays this past Friday and Saturday, representing the MWC home track with outstanding performances overall.

By the middle of the season, the team's focus had already narrowed in

on the Capital Athletic Conference Championships that will be hosted at the Battlegrounds on April 24. The team revealed the determined vigor and energy inspired by this goal.

Both the men's and women's teams turned in impressive performances this weekend, placing them at the top of many of the events in the two-day meet.

The women's distance medley relay took first place with a time of 13:20.00, while the men's distance medley took second with a time of 11:02.60.

Sophomore Jane Thies took second in the women's triple jump with 33-1 3/4, while freshmen Carissa Culbreath, who jumped a distance of 120, and Nikki

Arrington, a few feet less with 113-8, took second and third respectively in the women's discus event.

Senior Bobby Bergin placed first in the high jump, reaching 7-1/2. Bergin placed second in the NCAA National Indoor Track and Field meet held from March 14-15 in Greenville, IN.

"His 7-1/2 effort was the third best performance ever in the D-III national indoor meet," Soper said.

According to Soper, no MWC male has ever finished higher than second in a national competition, and Bergin has done it two years in a row. Juniors James Eberhardt (153-5) and Colin Dwyer (150-3) placed first and second respectively in the men's discus event. Dwyer said he is proud of the past weekend's performances considering the challenging competition.

"I felt that the level of competition in the throwing events was way up from previous years. That made it a lot more exciting," he said.

The team dominated in many of the events of this past weekend, despite illness and injury which have been affecting training in recent weeks.

"Some of our times were not as fast as

I would have liked, but much of that is due to recent illness and injuries that the team has sustained," Soper said.

Eberhardt's first place finish was despite his fight to recover from severe ankle dislocation after an injury throwing the shot put at Virginia Tech four weeks ago.

He attributes his rapid recovery, competing this weekend six weeks earlier than he was expected, to the help of the trainers and the support of his coaches.

"I owe a special thanks to all the folks in the training room who helped me while visiting them judiciously two to three times a day. I would still be in a brace and on crutches if it was not for their

help," Eberhardt said.

The team is expecting a challenge at this year's CAC Championships, but they said they have the confidence to be champions.

The Eagles track and field team will compete this coming weekend, April 4-5, at the North Carolina Central Invitational in Durham, NC.

"I felt that the level of competition in the throwing events was way up from previous years. That made it a lot more exciting."
Colin Dwyer

The Case For Kansas

Why The Jayhawks Will Win It All

COMMENTARY BY CORY TEMPLEMAN
A SYRACUSE JOURNAL COLLEGE

Let's get this out of the way first: Nick Collison is the most talented person on the Mary Washington College basketball team. Not only did he score the winning shot in the first round of the MWC tournament, but he also scored 19 points in the first round of the MWC tournament.

I also couldn't count the number of MWC students who are fans of Texas, Syracuse, Kansas and Marquette on two hands, either.

Nevertheless, one of these teams will win the national championship. That team is Kansas, a Final Four participant last year. For quite a few reasons.

First, the Jayhawks have senior experience. Make that seniors who have been to a Final Four.

Seniors Nick Collison and Kirk Hinrich lead the Kansas squad back to the Final Four for the second consecutive year. Quality senior leadership is key to winning the national championship.

Look at Maryland last year. Let's face it, Juan Dixon and Lenny Baxter won the title for the Terps last year.

The same goes for Collison and Hinrich this season. The two pose a tough inside-outside combination for opening round opponent Marquette. Collison in particular is the biggest problem. He's big, quick, and possesses a variety of post-moves that are sometimes impossible to stop.

Just ask the Duke Blue Devils. Hinrich, on the other hand, is a great shooter and when he gets hot, defenders are left scrambling to shoot him, which then leaves Collison one-on-one in the paint. If these two start clicking, it should be an easy march to the title game.

Second, Kansas already beat two of the

toughest teams in the country, or made it to the Final Four. In the Sweet 16, the Jayhawks beat a hot Duke team that won the ACC championship.

Collison scored 33 points and grabbed 19 rebounds in the win. Spectacular considering the stingy Duke defense.

To top that off, in the Elite 8 Kansas knocked off number one seed, and favorite to win the national championship, Arizona. The Jayhawks avenged a regular-season loss to Arizona on the strength of six Hinrich three-pointers. Needless to say, those two are stepping up in big game situations during the NCAA tournament and will continue to during the Final Four.

Finally, Jayhawks coach Roy Williams is the sentimental favorite. Considered one of the best coaches in college basketball never to win a national title, Williams returns to the Final Four for the second year in a row after starting the 2002-2003 campaign 0-2. The man can flat out coach and he wants to win at Kansas. He's also loyal to his school.

Three years ago, Williams turned down the high-profile North Carolina head coaching position to stay at Kansas in hopes of winning a national championship. Well, he

came close last year, but now it's his turn to win. After losing in last year's national semifinals with a better team on paper, Collison felt that making it to the Final Four was in essence something to prove to the rest of the country.

"No one talked about us coming out of the West bracket this year," Collison told ESPN's Andy Katz. "We had our ups and downs this year. Last year, we had one of the most talented teams here but didn't win it. This year, getting to the Final Four is more satisfying."



Nick Collison

Photo courtesy of www.espn.com



Anne Litz/Bullet

Softball Remains Undefeated In CAC

The Eagles shut out Gallaudet University by the score of 8-0 during their doubleheader on Wednesday, April 2. Freshman Abbey Wineland and sophomore Liz Crump both threw no hitters for MWC. The team will face Salisbury University on Saturday, April 5 in a match-up of top teams in the conference.

the Bullet

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the latest athletic news and information

Fast Fact:

The Snickers bar is the top selling candy in vending machines.

schedule

Baseball

April 3: at North Carolina Wesleyan

Softball

April 5: at Salisbury U.

Men's Lacrosse

April 5: vs. Neumann College

Women's Lacrosse

April 3: at Roanoke College

Tennis

April 4-5: at College of New Jersey

Track & Field

April 4-5: at North Carolina Central U.

scores

Baseball

April 1: Apprentice College W 5-4

Softball

April 2: Gallaudet University W 8-0

Men's Lacrosse

April 2: St. Mary's College W 9-8

Women's Lacrosse

March 31: Randolph-Macon W 15-8

Men's Tennis

March 30: Rhodes College W 5-2

Women's Tennis

March 27: Loyola College L 6-3

athlete of the week

Jon Hurd Baseball

First baseman knocked in the game-winning run to complete the team's come-from-behind victory against Apprentice College.

Women's Lax Lands On Top

Block Scores Four, Team Defeats Randolph-Macon, 15-8

By KATE STACY
Staff Writer

The frigid wind sweeping across the Battlegrounds at the women's lacrosse game this past Monday made the spectators envious of the warmed-up players on the field. The Mary Washington College women's lacrosse team, ranked 11th in the nation this week, braved the cold weather to defeat Randolph-Macon College, ranked 18th, by a solid score of 15-8.

The team's win against Randolph-Macon was an important one to inspire confidence and optimism coming into the Capital Athletic Conference championships.

St. Mary's College of Maryland will most likely pose the biggest threat to the Eagles in the conference championships. Randolph-Macon only lost to St. Mary's by a score of 10-7, making MWC's recent victory a huge step toward defeating one of their most competitive rivals.

"The game against Randolph-Macon was important for us in the region because they are a top 20 team. It showed that we are a top team and that we'll have a successful season," junior Jessica Goon said.

The Eagles dominated the first half of the game, leading at half time with a score of 8-1. Junior Melissa Block scored four goals, while Britt Gottlieb scored three times for the Eagles.

Randolph-Macon put up competition in the second-half, gaining seven points for their team. The Eagles, however, held strong and maintained a commanding lead. They capitalized on their strengths with freshman Kim Mathison making aggressive moves and freshman Kristina Kral scoring a vital goal to bring the score up to 13-6. Goon scored two back-to-back goals in the game.

Head Coach Dana Hall said she is impressed by the result of her players' hard work this season.

"Melissa Block and Jess Goon have stepped up this season to help the two seniors Kami McNinch and Beth Schminke lead this team to our destiny," Hall said.

That destiny, the team is hoping, is to win the conference and to go on to play in the national championship. The NCAA Tournament begins on May 7.

The remaining four weeks of the season will determine how far the team will go in the post-season and at this point their chances look good. "We've made it to the final four for the past two years, and our goal this year is to win the conference and make it to the national championship," Goon said.

Monday's seven-goal win for MWC represents the dedication of a team that, despite having to begin its training in inclement weather, is once again ranked at the top of the nation.

Block commented on the challenge of the snow in the team's ability to remain competitive this season.

"The beginning of this season was tough. The weather constraints we had were very frustrating especially since early competitors of ours had other facilities such as turf and field houses at their disposal," she said.

"The weather has played havoc on our training, limiting us on the field," Hall said. "Yet the team has kept their spirits high and been creative with their training."

Block's remarks seem to sum up the moral of this notoriously competitive women's team.

"I really believe that we are finally at a point to show exactly what this team is made of. I am so excited to see what we accomplish," she said.

The women's lacrosse team will play a home game this Sunday, April 6 at 1 p.m. against Greensboro College.



Anne Litz/Bullet

Freshman Caitlin O'Leary scoops a ground ball in a recent game.

Eagles Represent The Home Track

MWC Performs Well In Battleground Relay Meet



Anne Litz/Bullet

Runners at recent Battleground Relay.

By KATE STACY
Staff Writer

Mary Washington College track and field head coach Stan Soper is unfailingly optimistic about this year's team.

"Our team goal is always to win the conference championships, and this year we hope to keep our winning streak going," he said.

The Eagles hosted the Battleground Relays this past Friday and Saturday, representing the MWC home track with outstanding performances overall.

By the middle of the season, the team's focus had already narrowed in

on the Capital Athletic Conference Championships that will be hosted at the Battlegrounds on April 24. The team revealed the determined vigor and energy inspired by this goal.

Both the men's and women's teams turned in impressive performances this weekend, placing them at the top of many of the events in the two-day meet.

The women's distance medley relay took first place with a time of 13:20.00, while the men's distance medley took second with a time of 11:02.60.

Sophomore Jane Thies took second in the women's triple jump with 33-1 3/4, while freshmen Carrissa Culbreath, who jumped a distance of 120, and Nikki

Arrington, a few feet less with 113-8, took second and third respectively in the women's discus event.

Senior Bobby Bergin placed first in the high jump, reaching 7-1/2. Bergin placed second in the NCAA National Indoor Track and Field meet held from March 14-15 in Greenville, IN.

"His 7-1/2 effort was the third best performance ever in the D-III national indoor meet," Soper said.

According to Soper, no MWC male has ever finished higher than second in a national competition, and Bergin has done it two years in a row. Juniors James Eberhardt (153-5) and Colin Dwyer (150-3) placed first and second respectively in the men's discus event. Dwyer said

he is proud of the past weekend's performances considering the challenging competition. "I felt that the level of competition in the throwing events was way up from previous years. That made it a lot more exciting," he said.

The team dominated in many of the events of this past weekend, despite illness and injury which have been affecting training in recent weeks. "Some of our times were not as fast as

I would have liked, but much of that is due to recent illness and injuries that the team has sustained," Soper said.

Eberhardt's first place finish was despite his fight to recover from severe ankle dislocation after an injury throwing the shot put at Virginia Tech four weeks ago.

He attributes his rapid recovery, competing this weekend six weeks earlier than he was expected, to the help of the trainers and the support of his coaches.

"I owe a special thanks to all the folks in the training room who helped me while visiting them judiciously two to three times a day. I would still be in a brace and on crutches if it was not for their help," Eberhardt said.

The team is expecting a challenge at this year's CAC Championships, but they said they have the confidence to be champions.

"I felt that the level of competition in the throwing events was way up from previous years. That made it a lot more exciting."

Colin Dwyer

The Eagles track and field team will compete this coming weekend, April 4-5, at the North Carolina Central Invitational in Durham, NC.

The Case For Kansas

Why The Jayhawks Will Win It All

COMMENTARY by CORY TEMPLEMAN
Assistant Sports Editor

Let's get serious. Name one person on the Mary Washington College campus that only had one number one seed penciled in for this weekend's Final Four.

I also couldn't count the number of MWC students who are fans of Texas, Syracuse, Kansas and Marquette on two hands either.

Nevertheless, one of these teams will win the national championship. That team is Kansas, a Final Four participant last year. For quite a few reasons.

First, the Jayhawks have senior experience. Make that seniors who have been to a Final Four.

Seniors Nick Collison and Kirk Hinrich lead the Kansas squad back to the Final Four for the second consecutive year. Quality senior leadership is key to winning the national championship.

Look at Maryland last year. Let's face it, Juan Dixon and Lenny Baxter won the title for the Terps last year.

The same goes for Collison and Hinrich this season. The two pose a tough inside-outside combination for opening round opponent Marquette. Collison in particular is the biggest problem. He's big, quick, and possesses a variety of post-moves that are sometimes impossible to stop.

Just ask the Duke Blue Devils. Hinrich, on the other hand, is a great shooter and when he gets hot, defenders are left scrambling to shoot him, which then leaves Collison one-on-one in the paint. If these two start clicking, it should be an easy march to the title game.

Second, Kansas already beat two of the

toughest teams in the country en route to the Final Four. In the Sweet 16, the Jayhawks beat a hot Duke team that won the ACC championship.

Collison scored 33 points and grabbed 19 rebounds in the win. Spectacular considering the stingy Duke defense.

To top that off, in the Elite 8 Kansas knocked off number one seed, and favorite to win the national championship, Arizona. The Jayhawks avenged a regular-season loss to Arizona on the strength of six Hinrich three-pointers. Needless

to say, those two are stepping-up in big game situations during the NCAA tournament and will continue to during the Final Four.

Finally, Jayhawks coach Roy Williams is the sentimental favorite. Considered one of the best coaches in college basketball never to win a national title, Williams returns to the Final Four for the second year in a row after starting the 2002-2003 campaign 0-2. The man can flat out coach and he wants to win at Kansas. He's also loyal to his school.

Three years ago, Williams turned down the high-profile North Carolina head coaching position to stay at Kansas in hopes of winning a national championship. Well, he

came close last year, but now it's his turn to win.

After losing in last year's national semifinals with a better team on paper, Collison felt that making it to the Final Four was in essence something to prove to the rest of the country.

"No one talked about us coming out of the West bracket this year," Collison told ESPN's Andy Katz. "We had our ups and downs this year. Last year, we had one of the most talented teams here but didn't win it. This year, getting to the Final Four is more satisfying."



Photo Courtesy of www.espn.com
Nick Collison



Anne Litz/Bullet

Softball Remains Undefeated In CAC

The Eagles shut out Gallaudet University by the score of 8-0 during their doubleheader on Wednesday, April 2. Freshman Abbey Wineland and sophomore Liz Crump both threw no hitters for MWC. The team will face Salisbury University on Saturday, April 5 in a match-up of top teams in the conference.

the Bullet

Are you interested in business and advertising? Want to be part of *The Bullet* staff? Are you looking for something to add to your resume?

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Scene

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FAST FACT:

A rat can last longer without water than a camel.

coming attractions

▼ **Thursday, April 3:**
"World Tour" by the Mary Washington College Wind and Percussion Ensemble. Dodd Auditorium in George Washington Hall. 7:30 p.m. One item of food for the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank.

▼ **Saturday, April 5:**
Multicultural Fair, a Cultural Awareness Series event. Ball Circle and Campus Walk. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free.

▼ **Saturday April 5:**
Operafest. Pollard Hall, room 304. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Auditions are free/ five-week course is \$300.

Silence In The Name Of Acceptance

PRISM Hosts Day Of Silence On April 9 At Mary Washington

By ADELE UPNAUS

Staff Writer

Mary Washington College's recent experiences with "The Laramie Project" and the protestors from Westboro Baptist church have put rights for sexual minorities on the map. Nathan Figueroa, president of PRISM, said he was very impressed with the school's response to Fred Phelps's anti-gay agenda, but he still feels we have a long way to go.

"MWC is pretty tolerant as a whole," he said. "But I think underlying the tolerance is a deep-rooted silence. Some students and faculty told me that whole experience wasn't a gay issue but a hate issue. I think that's a little ridiculous."

The Day of Silence, which will occur on April 9, is an attempt to raise people's awareness for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. It was first organized at the University of Virginia in 1996, and since then has become the largest student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. In 2002, over 1900 schools and colleges and an estimated 100,000 students across the country participated, remaining silent for an entire day to raise consciousness about sexual minorities and their victimization.

The movement's website states: "For a long time, the silencing of

lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies has been the norm. The Day of Silence is a way of turning silence on its head, of reclaiming silence as a tool. Such an effort allows us to reflect upon how powerful silencing can be, to focus on how we can make our own voices stronger and begin to stop silencing ourselves."

"Gay and lesbian issues are often silenced," Figueroa said. "This day is so that we can ask what to do about it."

Figueroa also said that the Day of Silence has had tremendous impact since it started in 1996. "In Congress now they are debating a motion to make it a nationally-recognized day," he said. According to the website, governor Gray Davis of California also issued a proclamation making last year's Day of Silence official.

To break the silence at the end of the day, PRISM has invited the Rev. Dr. Mel White to speak at the college. White is the co-founder of a group called Soulforce, which confronts the often hostile attitude of religious leaders towards gay people.

White grew up in California in a fundamentalist Christian family.

"I was raised to think homosexuality was a sickness and a sin," he said. This led to years of psychiatric treatment, including electric shock therapy, and finally to White's attempt to kill himself by slitting his wrists.

"In the hospital, my wife told me that I had been a good husband, but that I was

gay," he said.

Subsequently, he met Gary, his partner of 21 years, and the two became activists. Inspired by Gandhi and the power of non-violence, they formed Soulforce, which White said "works to help people understand the tragic consequences of church's attitudes to gay people."

White recently settled in Lynchburg, Va., where he lives across the street from Rev. Jerry Falwell.

"Lynchburg is kind of an exciting place," he said. "Gary and I attend Falwell's church, where we sit holding hands and smile at him. We've found huge acceptance there, and some hatred, but not much."

White said he has had a lot of contact with Fred Phelps, who organized the protests against the college's production of "The Laramie Project."

"Reverend Phelps follows us wherever we go," he said. "I've had long talks in his office. I believe he's sincere, but sincerely wrong, and a bit crazy."

He said Phelps is actually a help to gay people, because after people hear his hate-



Photo Courtesy www.melwhite.org

"I believe [Fred Phelps is] sincere, but sincerely wrong, and a bit crazy."

-Rev. Dr. Mel White

filled rhetoric, they think gay people are good in comparison. "We like Fred," he said.

At the college, White will give a speech entitled "Stranger at the Gate." He will talk about "the current crisis in the church," and will make the case for churches to accept gay people fully.

Figueroa said that PRISM will start publicizing for the Day of Silence this week. They will send invitations of participation to campus organizations, and will sign people up in the Eagle's Nest. They will also be handing out rainbow badges and pledge cards on April 9 to explain why they are silent.

top ten movies

1. Head of State
2. Bringing Down the House
3. The Core
4. Basic
5. Chicago
6. Dreamcatcher
7. Agent Cody Banks
8. Piglet's Big Movie
9. View from the Top
10. The Hunted

Opening This Weekend:

"Levity," with Billy Bob Thornton, Morgan Freeman, and Kirsten Dunst, "A Man Apart" with Vin Diesel, "Phone Booth" with Colin Farrell and Kiefer Sutherland

Source: www.imdb.com

Quote of the Week

"I do not wear the shoes. They make me fall down."

-Agador, "The Birdcage"



Photo Courtesy Bad Luck Idols

Sophomores Brian Doyle and Adam Russell, part of the Bad Luck Idols, rehearse for an upcoming show at the Underground.

Bad Luck Idols Have Stroke Of Good Luck

By CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

Staff Writer

Bad Luck Idols have been experiencing nothing but good luck recently. With their first CD out, an April 17 concert date at the Mary Washington College Underground, and a review coming out on www.getunderground.com, an international web page, this sophomore Mary Washington College band is slowly catching on.

Bad Luck Idols, a band of four Mary Washington College sophomores, has been making music since the middle of 2001.

They originally consisted of sophomore Ian Rhoad, lead guitarist, and sophomore Bulletin writer Brian Doyle as lead singer/ guitarist, playing

covers in Mason Hall their freshman year and various other places at very peculiar hours. Rhoad and Doyle soon added a bassist, Rhoad's roommate sophomore Adam Russell, and the band began to take form. To fill out the foursome, sophomore Robert Sledz became their drummer.

"It's kind of schizophrenic dream pop."

-Ian Rhoad

"Our music is kind of weird and experimental, but we like it," said Doyle.

Their new CD, "My First Demo," is currently being handed out on campus for free.

"It's kind of schizophrenic dream pop," Rhoad said. "It's really just start with chord, end with a chord and see what happens in the middle."

The Idols' songs all start out sounding like it could be any pop song around but then morphs into something completely different. All of their songs from "Intro" to "Liar" express emotions that everybody feels, ranging from love, as in "Palestrina," to protest of people who live their lives around work, as in "Men In Suits."

The Idols have been working hard to get their name out, especially on Mary Washington College's campus. They will play a gig at the Underground on April 17.

Previous exposure for the band has been at The Underground's Battle of the Bands, at a radio

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Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

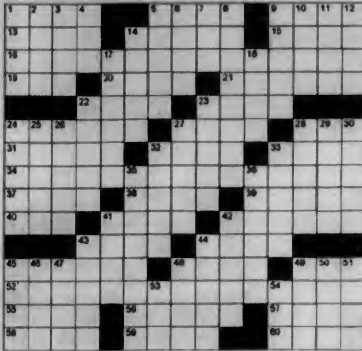
Yuletide Greetings

Across

- 1 Doctrines
- 5 Mother
- 9 Thin strip of wood
- 13 Acquired
- 14 Type of power
- 15 Land unit
- 16 Clement Moore, for one
- 19 Tool
- 20 Rotating mechanisms
- 21 Retrievers and Boxers
- 22 Heroic tale
- 23 Deceiver
- 24 Sweeping tool
- 27 Distribute cards
- 28 Newscaster Russert
- 31 Sum up
- 32 Advertising board
- 33 Nude
- 34 Charles Dickens's work
- 37 Monkeys
- 38 Money box
- 39 In the past
- 40 Before
- 41 Itsy-bitsy
- 42 African fly
- 43 Common people
- 44 Follows junk
- 45 Get away
- 48 Oven
- 49 Piglet's friend
- 52 Santa's treat
- 55 Transport
- 56 Loses at pin ball
- 57 Internet addresses
- 58 Bookies' ratio
- 59 Lyric poems
- 60 Snatches

Down

- 1 Restless desire
- 2 NYC district
- 3 Additional
- 4 Comes before lift or pole
- 5 Mother
- 6 Poor thing!



7 Advanced degrees

8 Yemen residents

9 Tardier

10 Yearn

11 Trampled

12 Towel word

14 Bachelor affairs

17 Shrimp dish

18 Russian river

23 Glides

23 Legitimate

24 Support

25 Happen again

26 Orange-yellow color

27 Indistinctly

28 Fortune telling cards

29 Presses

30 Disbarance

32 Reek

33 NYC doughnut

35 Dagger

36 Vegas sight

41 Spinning toys

42 Powders

43 Breaks down

44 Fogs

45 Repeat

46 Fish

47 Muck

48 Edible plant

49 Gumbo ingredient

50 Droop

51 Smaller in amount

53 At the center

54 ____ Town

Quotable Quote

A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.

... Garrison Kettlor

Keep It As Mary Washington

Dear Editor:

Imagine a time in the not so distant future, when you've graduated from college and have a job. Here's the scenario: a ritzy little dinner party where small talk about one's life is the norm. The spouse of your host asks you, "So, where did you earn your degree from?" To which you would respond, "FU."

I kid you not. FU, as in Fredericksburg University. Only one of the seven names that have recently been considered to rename our college when it becomes a university. That's right. Not if our college becomes a university, but when. The presence of representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on campus last week is evidence enough of that.

Previously I had heard sporadic rumors about the possibility of a name change accompanying the switch to university status, but I assumed, or rather hoped, that it was just talk. After all, I didn't actually understand why a name change needed to occur in the first place. In fact I still don't. Further, how would becoming a university benefit Mary Washington College? If the population cap would remain at 4,000 students and if minors still wouldn't be offered then what is the point of declaring university status?

So I ask you, the Mary Washington College community, exactly what is wrong with our name? The supposed justification that the name ought to be changed in order

to attract a larger male population is a pathetic excuse. Mary Washington College has been coed for over 30 years now and the name obviously hasn't discouraged that many men from choosing to attend.

What about the fact that Mary Washington College is only one of six institutions of higher learning in the nation named after a woman using her full name? Shouldn't this be something to be extremely proud of? If we truly are among the best of the best as the banners outside of Lee Hall proclaim, then our college should celebrate its individuality.

"If something must be named for John Lee Pratt make it New Hall."

Prospective students and randomly selected alumni have been consulted in this matter but not current students. Name suggestions proposed to the alumni include such horrendous ideas as the aforementioned Fredericksburg University, Washington and Monroe University, Virginia Heritage University, and Pratt University.

Some of these have little relevance to the rich history and tradition of Mary Washington. Particularly Pratt University. Granted, John Lee Pratt was an early benefactor to the college, but if something must be named after him make it New Hall.

It's insult enough that our college, famed for its close knit atmosphere, will become a university without regard for the students opinions, must we add a name change to that as well?

Amanda Crissup is freshman.

How About MWU?

ALUMNI page 3

get more male students. Even if this is true, are those really the kind of male students we want? Basically the administration, in all its wisdom, is saying that they want more, narrower minded, males. Genius! What's next on the agenda, an appeal to people's homophobia?

The administration needs to be stopped on this one. For any alumni reading this, I ask you either not to donate money or to put stipulations on your donation that require the name not to change. After all, money is

power in the education game. Current students should refuse to take part in the phone-a-thon events: I mean do you really need a free slice of Papa John's pizza that badly?

Take it from us, most times when you fight the Administration you lose. However, on this issue we can and must win.

Eric Klass, Devcon Chapin, Michael Cirmoi, and Sean M. Tuffy were known as "The Sons of Liberty" when they graduated in 1998.



The Weekly Wassup

What to do... Where to go?!



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Dance class Ballroom 8-9 AM Dance Studio at Goolrick	Meditation Workshop Leidecker Center for Asian Studies Trinkle B39 4:00 PM	Multi-Cultural Fair 10 AM - 5 PM Ball Circle		Black Student Association 5:00 PM Meeting Room #4	Masters Swim Club Practice 11 AM - 12:30 PM	Masters Swim Club Practice 8 - 9:30 AM
Masters Swim Club Practice 11 AM - 12:30 PM				Dance Class Jumps and Turns 5-6 PM Goolrick Dance Studio	SEA Student Teacher Panel 5:30 PM	Day of Silence
Commuting Student Association Roommate Social 5:00 pm Tan Room				Dining Committee Faculty/Staff Dining Room 4:00 PM	Walt Disney World College Program 4:00 PM Meeting Room #1 Call x 1022	Silence Breaks 7:30 PM Great Hall
Michael Lange reads Wilfred Owen 5:00 pm Combs 139					Fractal Geometry Trinkle 140 5:00 PM	



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Crossword 101

By Ed Cauty

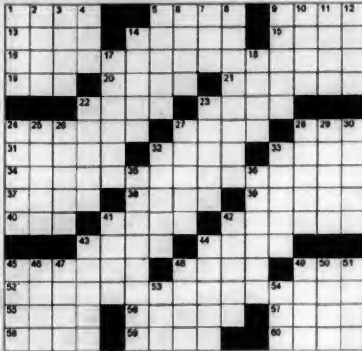
Yuletide Greetings

Across

- 1 Doctrines
5 Mother
9 Thin strip of wood
13 Acquired
14 Type of power
15 Land unit
16 Clement Moore, for one
19 Tool
20 Rotating mechanisms
21 Retrievers and Boxers
22 Heroic tale
23 Deceiver
24 Sweeping tool
27 Distribute cards
28 Newscaster Russert
31 Sum up
32 Advertising board
33 Nude
34 Charles Dickens's work
37 Mongrels
38 Money box
39 In the past
40 Before
41 Itty-bitty
42 African fly
43 Common people
44 Follows junk
45 Get away
48 Oven
49 Piglet's friend
52 Santa's treat
55 Transport
56 Loses at pin ball
57 Internet addresses
58 Bookies' ratio
59 Lyric poems
60 Snitches

Down

- 1 Restless desire
2 NYC district
3 Additional
4 Comes before lift or pole
5 Mother
6 Poor thing!



- 7 Advanced degrees
8 Yomem residents

- 9 Tardier
10 Yearn
11 Trampled
12 Towel word
14 Bachelor affairs
17 Shrimp dish
18 Russian river
22 Glides

- 23 Legitimate
24 Support
25 Happen again
26 Orange-yellow color
27 Indistinctly
28 Fortune telling cards
29 Presses
30 Disturbance

- 32 Reek
33 NYC doughnut
35 Dagger
36 Vegas sight
41 Spinning toys
42 Powders
43 Breaks down

- 44 Fogs
45 Repeat
46 Fish
47 Muck
48 Edible plant
49 Gumbo ingredient
50 Droop
51 Smaller in amount
53 At the center
54 Town

Quotable Quote

A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.

... Garrison Kellor

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Keep It As Mary Washington

Dear Editor:

Imagine a time in the not so distant future, when you've graduated from college and have a job. Here's the scenario: a ritzy little dinner party where small talk about one's life is the norm. The spouse of your host asks you, "So, where did you earn your degree from?" To which you would respond, "FU."

I kid you not, FU, as in Frederickburg University. Only one of the seven names that have recently been considered to rename our college when it becomes a university. That's right. Not if our college becomes a university, but when. The presence of representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on campus last week is evidence enough of that.

Previously I had heard sporadic rumors about the possibility of a name change accompanying the switch to university status, but I assumed, or rather hoped, that it was just talk. After all, I didn't actually understand why a name change needed to occur in the first place. In fact I still don't. Further, how would becoming a university benefit Mary Washington College? If the population cap would remain at 4,000 students and if minors still wouldn't be offered then what is the point of declaring university status?

So I ask you, the Mary Washington College community, exactly what is wrong with our name? The supposed justification that the name ought to be changed in order

to attract a larger male population is a pathetic excuse. Mary Washington College has been coed for over 30 years now and the name obviously hasn't discouraged that many men from choosing to attend.

What about the fact that Mary Washington College is only one of six institutions of higher learning in the nation named after a woman using her full name? Shouldn't this be something to be extremely proud of? If we truly are among the best of the best as the banners outside of Lee Hall proclaim, then our college should celebrate its individuality.

"If something must be named for John Lee Pratt make it New Hall."

Prospective students and randomly selected alumni have been consulted in this matter but not current students. Name suggestions proposed to the alumni include such horrendous ideas as the aforementioned Frederickburg University, Washington and Monroe University, Virginia Heritage University, and Pratt University.

Some of these have little relevance to the rich history and tradition of Mary Washington. Particularly Pratt University. Granted, John Lee Pratt was an early benefactor to the college, but if something must be named after him make it New Hall.

It's insult enough that our college, fumed for its close knit atmosphere, will become a university without regard for the students opinions, must we add a name change to that as well?

Amanda Crispus is freshman.

How About MWU?

ALUMNI, page 3

get more male students. Even if this is true, are those really the kind of male students we want? Basically the administration, in all its wisdom, is saying that they want more, narrower minded, males. Genius! What's next on the agenda, an appeal to people's homophobia?

The administration needs to be stopped on this one. For any alumni reading this, I ask you either not to donate money or to put stipulations on your donation that require the name not to change. After all, money is

power in the education game. Current students should refuse to take part in the phone-a-thon events. I mean do you really need a free slice of Papa John's pizza that badly?

Take it from us, most times when you fight the Administration you lose. However, on this issue we can win.

Eric Klass, Deacon Chapin, Michael Cirmal, and Sean M. Tuffy were known as "The Sons of Liberty" when they graduated in 1998.

The Weekly Wassup

What to do... Where to go?!



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Dance class Ballroom 8-9 AM Dance Studio at Goolrick	Meditation Workshop Leidecker Center for Asian Studies Trinkle B39 4:00 PM	Multi-Cultural Fair 10 AM - 5 PM Ball Circle		Black Student Association 5:00 PM Meeting Room #4	Masters Swim Club Practice 11 AM - 12:30 PM	Masters Swim Club Practice 8 - 9:30 AM
Masters Swim Club Practice 11 AM - 12:30 PM				Dance Class Jumps and Turns 5-6 PM Goolrick Dance Studio	SEA Student Teacher Panel 5:30 PM	Day of Silence
Commuting Student Association Roommate Social 5:00 pm Tan Room				Dining Committee Faculty/Staff Dining Room 4:00 PM	Walt Disney World College Program 4:00 PM Meeting Room #1 Call x 1022	Silence Breaks 7:30 PM Great Hall
Michael Lange reads Wilfred Owen 5:00 pm Combs 139					Fractal Geometry Trinkle 140 5:00 PM	



McCourt Tells His Tale

By AMANDA MCGUIRE

Staff Writer

The first thing Frank McCourt did after finding out his first book was going to be published was drink two pints of Guinness and then vacuum with nothing on except a cowboy hat.

"I wanted to be good to my wife," he said with an innocent shrug of his shoulders as he spoke at the Fredericksburg Forum on March 27 at 8 p.m. Bouts of laughter and waves of generous applause occurred frequently through the evening as McCourt, with his soothing Irish brogue, entertained the audience.

Even from his childhood days growing up in Ireland and stealing money from a dead old woman, McCourt knew that he wanted to be a writer.

"All my life I had a dream of the writer's life," he said.

McCourt unabashedly admitted that without stealing money from the moneylender for whom he worked, after she died, he might not have ever made it to the United States. As he recounts in his best-selling memoir, "Angela's Ashes," McCourt wrote threatening letters for the moneylender and admits this was his first job that paid him to write.

McCourt explained how he used to tell this story to his high school English students.

"They thought it was thrilling to have a criminal as a teacher," he said.

Money-stealing and letter-writing aside, McCourt's childhood was the basis for his memoir, which he wrote after teaching high school in New York City for 27 years. He reflected upon his teaching experiences many times through the evening and said teaching is the basis of the book he is currently working on entitled "Teacher Man."

"Teaching is the most challenging and the most satisfying career," he said, adding that his students were the motivation for his first book because they constantly nagged at him to tell stories about his childhood in Ireland.

McCourt joked that he really didn't know much about writing when he first started teaching, but said, "When I was learning about [the students], I was also learning about myself."

He confessed that he knew in the back of his mind that he had to write a book someday because he kept jotting notes down in notebooks about his childhood



Frank McCourt speaks at the Fredericksburg Forum as Associate Professor of English Gardner Campbell looks on. Peter Kelley/Bullet

in Limerick.

"I tried to write the novel, but reality kept intruding," McCourt said. "And the only thing worse than a miserable childhood is writing about a miserable childhood!"

McCourt grew up in an impoverished Irish-Catholic family in the slums of Limerick, Ireland which provided him with plenty of material to fill up the pages of "Angela's Ashes." The book was first published in 1996 and later adapted into a film of the same name in 1999. His second novel, "Tis" was published in 1999 and traces his journey from Ireland to New York and his young life in America.

Bobby Crisp, a Fredericksburg resident and Mary Washington College 1965 alumna, has read both of McCourt's books and welcomed the opportunity to hear him speak at the forum.

"It's such a wonderful story about going from rags to riches," she said about "Angela's Ashes."

Both of his books were on sale at the forum, but many audience members already had their own copies. Robyn Porter, a senior English major, brought

her copy of "Angela's Ashes" with her in hopes to get McCourt to sign it for her.

"It was amazing to see him speak, especially after reading his books," Porter said. "I really enjoyed his sense of humor."

During the discussion, which occurred after he spoke, McCourt addressed his sense of humor when asked whether or not he saw the humor in his books.

He explained that living in such wretched conditions like he did in Ireland, the only thing that kept him going was having a sense of humor.

"Your only weapon is humor and a sense of absurdity," he said.

Far from the meager meals of tea and potatoes that he ate as a child, McCourt has flown around in a private jet and has even had an opportunity to meet the Pope since attaining celebrity status. But he admits he's not so sure he's cut out to be famous.

"Maybe I'll go back to teaching, I don't know," he said. "I'm tired of this celebrity stuff."

His celebrity status certainly did not seem to go unnoticed in Fredericksburg. According to college

officials, the forum sold all 1,600 tickets.

Tickets to the forum cost students \$5, while general admission was \$20.

Retired Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Bernard Mahoney and his wife, Kathleen, attended the speech and said that they enjoyed it. She was delighted when the leader of the discussion portion of the presentation, Associate Professor of English Gardner Campbell, read her question about how Limerick residents have reacted to McCourt's less than flattering description of them in his writing.

McCourt responded to her question by pointing out that many Irish showed up to be extras in the film version of "Angela's Ashes," so they couldn't have despised him too much.

One of the final questions of the evening concentrated on his religious beliefs, an area of his life that McCourt has struggled with since his strict Irish-Catholic childhood.

McCourt hesitated to answer this question too quickly and then said, "I believe in everything until I have a reason not to."

MWC Snow Plow Hits Student's Car College Says No To Paying Damages

By STEPHANIE TWINING

Staff Writer

Senior Stephanie Pflumm walked into the parking lot behind Simpson Library on the night of Feb. 26 to find her 1997 Mercury Sable almost completely destroyed.

She called the police hoping things would begin to make sense. What she learned was that one of the school-employed snowplows had incurred \$1,844 worth of damage to her car, and she later found out that the school's insurance company was denying responsibility and therefore wasn't going to pay for the damages.

"Does that make sense to you?" Pflumm asked. "So basically our cars aren't safe on campus?"

Pflumm's car was parked in a legal spot for about two hours while she worked on an art project in Melcher's Hall. From the damage, she said it was evident that the snowplow backed into the rear of her car, first hitting the spoiler causing it to crack and fall off and then continuing on to scrape the trunk and shatter the back windshield.

Pflumm has enlisted the aid of a private attorney to help her find the answers to her questions and the solution to her situation.

"The lawyer said I have a good case," Pflumm said. "If the school's insurance doesn't pay soon, we'll probably sue."

Claims similar to Pflumm's are handled by the state and are therefore not in the hands of anyone on campus. Pflumm is currently working her way through the claims process and contacting various school and state officials.

"Stephanie [Pflumm] is pursuing things the best she can," said Erna Baker, director of the Department of Purchasing for the college.

According to Jay Bey, insurance adjuster for Crawford and Company, the investigation of the incident revealed that Ronald Collier, the driver of the snowplow, was protected by governmental immunity and is not held liable for any damages. Crawford and Company is the insurance company that handles liability claims for Mary Washington College as well

as the entire Commonwealth of Virginia.

Under the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity, governmental entities and employees, which include state universities, are granted protection against suits for tort liability.

According to the Supreme Court of Virginia judgment in the case of Messina v. Burden, sovereign immunity is a "rule of social policy, which protects the state from burdensome interference with the performance of its governmental functions and preserves its control over state funds, property, and instrumentalities."

Pflumm is frustrated because the insurance company is suggesting she seek reimbursement from her own insurance company.

"That's a \$500 deductible," Pflumm said. "Plus I would lose my 15 percent safe driver's discount."

Doug Fawcett, director of the Public Works department for the

city of Fredericksburg, said that the city saw at least two similar incidents involving snowplows this past winter. In one of the cases, the owner of the car decided the damage was minimal enough that no police report was filed. Fawcett was not aware of the outcome of the other case.

"It's not automatic that the insurance would cover the damages," Fawcett said. "It can depend on extenuating circumstances like where the car was parked. If it was parked illegally comes into factor."

In the Virginia Supreme Court case Colby v. Boyden, it was held that the sovereign immunity doctrine required a showing of gross negligence to establish a violation of the standard of care required of state employed drivers.

For Pflumm's claim, the insurance company decided that the acts of the snowplow driver were of simple negligence and therefore protected from liability by the law, according to Bey.

As far as student's cars being safe from damage on campus, Baker can only speak from what she has seen in the past.

"Accidents happen," Baker said.



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Pflumm
The damaged car.



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